Members Present:
Barb Lisiecki, SSM  Dean Reid, Mackinac  Jill Maki, Luce County
Bill Ferguson, Chippewa  Michelle Walk, MSU Ext.  Billie Jo Hermanson, Luce
Eric Becks, LSSU  Jim Durm, Moran Twp.  Bev Holmes, Newberry
Jim Moore, Chippewa Co.  Diane Patrick, Mack Co.  Mike Herbst, Luce Co.
Don McLean, Chippewa Co.  Dick Timmer, Workforce Dev.
Leisa Mansfield, SSM COC

Guests:
None

Staff:
Jeff Hagan  Nathan Fazer

CALL TO ORDER
Meeting called to order at 12:03 p.m, by Chairwoman Hermanson.

AGENDA APPROVAL
E. Becks moved to accept the agenda as presented, supported by M. Walk, motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
Motion by D. McLean to accept the minutes of the January 26, 2011 Board meeting as presented, supported by D. Reid, motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT
Director Hagan delivered the Financial Report to the Board for the 2nd quarter of the 2011 fiscal year, which ended March 31, 2011. Two reports were presented, one breaks down each of the funding programs to date and another which shows the financial situation for the entire Fiscal Year, which began on October 1, 2010. The Director also discussed briefly projects currently underway, and potential upcoming projects. Chair Hermanson inquired as to the status of the Luce County local share request, Director Hagan updated the board that the County agreed to a reduced share amount of $6,371 which will be used to match the EDA Economic Development District Planning Grant. Motion by B. Ferguson to approve financial report, supported by J. Durm, motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
EDA EDD
The 2011 CEDS Annual Update is progressing on schedule, the REDAC will meet on Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at 9am in the Crows Nets at LSSU to discuss the priority projects submitted for review, and to hear a presentation from MSU Extension the Tourism Outlook.
We are also working with the MSU Center for Community & Economic Development on a grant proposal to EDA, focused on exporting opportunities for business across the Region. This 18 month project, if funded, would begin this summer.
The 2nd Edition of the EUP Directory was completed this winter and sent out to all governmental entities and numerous stakeholder groups in the Region. This has been a very popular product; we continue to receive positive and constructive feedback on it.
On Thursday, April 21, 2011 the Regional Planning Commission, along with Huntington Bank and the Sault Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the first EVER Economic Outlook Luncheon, it appears to have been a big success, with over 100 people attending, presentations were made by Spencer Nebel, city of SSM Manager, Phil Becker, Director of the IBA and a Keynote presentation by Matt McCauley of the NWMICOG. Huntington Bank was a great sponsor and without them, we couldn’t have done it, we are already discussing the next Luncheon which could possible take place this fall.

This spring we will conducting our bi-annual Major Employers Report, utilizing our database of contacts and various sources, we will try to have an online version of the survey tool available for submittal that way, and will also be considering a few additional questions for the survey, to learn more about the business environment in the Region.

Staff members are currently working with the Chippewa County Redistricting Committee as they embark upon the process of redistricting the County, as is required by PL94-171, to be completed 60 days after the release of the 2010 Redistricting Data. We have been able to assist the Committee utilizing our ARCGIS software to configure districts and tabulate populations in these districts. We have talked to the Mackinac County Clerk and expect to begin working with them as well.

The first cut of 2010 Census data was released on March 22nd, 2011, as the State Data Center for the Region, we disseminated this information to all LUGS and other stakeholder groups that utilize this data. I also prepared a more formal press release type document that was submitted to each of the three major news publications in the region. The text of that release was included in your packet. On Friday, April 22, 2011 the Bureau released the Group Quarters Population information, copies of this information as it pertains to our the Eastern UP region were placed at your seat.

CDBG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
The Commission continues to provide assistance to the Chippewa County EDC and Frontier Renewable Resources on the planned Cellulosic Ethanol Refinery, at this point we are working on a pre-application for funding through the CDBG program for the rail spur component of the project. Early estimates put ground breaking on schedule for 2012 and full production by 4th quarter of 2013. We did receive an extension on our contract through June 30, 2011 for this program.

TRANSPORTATION
RPC Staff continue to work with both MDOT Region and Lansing staff on the 2007 Scenic Byways grant, to receive the project authorization on this grant. The FHWA has obligated the funding to MDOT, we are now awaiting a Project Authorization “PA” to be issued from MDOT that will allow us to begin work under the grant. We are in a similar situation with the 2009 Byways grant, although that one is under review with regard to the matching funds that Northern Initiatives has pledged, as well as the bid process for line items over $25,000.

RPC Staff submitted all of the necessary paperwork on the M-134 Heritage Route designation, the final designation is expected from MDOT in the very near future.

RPC staff continue to work with the GLSHS on their 2008 Byways grant award, which includes assisting on the development of an RFP, issuance and review of the RFP and ongoing monitoring of the design and engineering study project.

LOCAL PLANNING PROJECTS
- Work was completed work on the Marquette Twp. Master Plan update and will be conducting a public hearing for final comments on the plan on May 11th at the Township Hall at 6pm.
- Beginning work on an update to the Portage Township Master Plan, to include a future land use section and some updated maps for the Plan, this project should wrap up by the end of our fiscal year with a 45 day review and comment period.
• The Dafter Township Master Plan Update was finalized and approved in March, 2011. The project is considered completed.
• Work continues on the Bay Mills Township Land Use Plan update and should be completed this summer.
• Portage Township Zoning Ordinance re-write will begin this fall once the Master Plan Update has been completed; this is estimated to be a 2-year project.

WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANNING
Our current Community Wildfire Protection Program (CWPP) completed it’s first plan this month. The Whitefish Township Community Wildfire Protection Plan has been completed by part time staffer, Neil Henne. The plan was completed close to three months ahead of the scheduled deadline and is slated for adoption at the Township Board Meeting on May 5th.

The CWPP Program webpage will be updated next month. This updated website will feature regional fire potential mapping and fire activity simulations. The website will also provide links to local fire information sources and current incidents reports; including a link to the NOAA “Fire Weather Information” website.

The Luce County CWPP is under development. There is a meeting slated for the CORE Committee in May. For more information contact Neil 906-635-1581 * 4.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING
Commission has not heard of any preliminary award announcement, as was previously anticipated in March on this grant project, however, with the Federal budget situation, that is not entirely unexpected, all indications are that Michigan will still receive funding for pre-disaster mitigation planning and we are hopeful that this grant will still be awarded in July 2011.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT
Commission received an email from the DEQ on April 11, with a contract enclosed, and according to DEQ staff, once the contract is finalized and they receive their funding from NOAA, we will be able to execute the contract and move forward on this project. Due to the contract delay, the project is about one quarter (25%) behind schedule right now but DEQ has assured us that an extension is possible on the back end, if needed. We are hopeful to begin work this summer on the grant.

LITTLE RAPIDS PROJECT
During the past quarter, the Commission was presented with an opportunity to be the lead applicant on a proposal for funding of a design and engineering study for the Little Rapids area of the St. Mary’s River. This project was previously submitted through the GLRI for stimulus funding, but due to the project not being “shovel ready”, it was not funded. The GLRI recently added a new category for design and engineering projects, which fit the Little Rapids proposal perfectly, however, due to a political decision at the Great Lakes Commission, they were unable to proceed as the applicant and several other agencies were not in a position to take on the proposal, after discussing the project with the GLC and DEQ and consulting with our executive committee, it was agreed that this would be a project we could administer and take on as the lead applicant. Funding awards are expected to be announced in July 2011. The project would cover 18 months, and the total grant amount is $348,568, matched with $44,900 of in-kind. The RPC would receive approximately $35,000 to administer the project.

MISCELLANEOUS:
The Executive Committee met twice since our last quarterly board meeting, both times via conference call, once to discuss the Little Rapids Grant Proposal and the 2nd, a regularly scheduled quarterly conference call in March. The major topic of discussion on the March call was the correspondence received from Luce County regarding the local match. The Luce County Board accepted our counteroffer for $6,371 in local match, which is the amount needed to match our EDA Economic Development District Planning Grant.
A second item of discussion was meeting per diems for private sector representatives. Most members of the Commission are appointed by their legislative body or organization and as such, receive reimbursements from those entities for their travel to and from our quarterly board meetings. However, since amending our By-Laws in 2010, to allow the Executive Director to make private sector appointments, at least one County has backed away from reimbursing mileage for a private sector representative (from that County). Historically we have had issues recruiting folks from the private sector, and EDA has placed more emphasis on having private sector reps on our board (35% must be private sector, chambers of commerce, workforce or higher education), since I took over the appointments we have been able to recruit some well qualified representatives, however, if they are not being reimbursed for attending the meetings that does represent an issue, especially with gas ABOVE $4/gallon. During my tenure with the Commission, we have always paid for a dinner or lunch rather than reimbursing for mileage. I feel it would be appropriate to add a policy to our By-Laws for reimbursement of private sector appointees to our Commission’s Governing Board, so long as funding is available to do so. The policy would read:

**Commission Meeting Travel Reimbursement**

*Any private sector appointee to the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission that is not otherwise compensated by their employer or appointing board for the cost of travel to and from regular Commission meetings, is eligible to seek a reimbursement of $25.00 per meeting, so long as the Commission is financially capable of fulfilling this reimbursement within its’ operating budget. This reimbursement will be processed upon receipt of a completed travel reimbursement form, which has been verified by the Executive Director, which lists the meeting date, location and estimated total round trip mileage. This reimbursement is only applicable to full Commission Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings during a calendar year.*

Moved: D. McLean
Supported: R. Timmer
Roll Call Vote – Yeas: Holmes, Ferguson, Mansfield, Patrick, Reid, Walk, Durm, Lisiecki, Becks, Moore, Timmer, McLean.
Abstained: Zimmerman, Reid.
Nays: none

**LEGISLATION OF NOTE:**

Director Hagan updated the Board on the recently passed Emergency Financial Manager Bill, which has become very controversial and hotly debated, this is provided as informational only so that the Board members can become more familiar with the Bill, especially if there are units of Government in your districts or operating areas that might be falling into fiscal distress. With regard to local fiscal stress, at the State Association meeting in February, a presentation was made by a company called Munetrix, regarding a software tool they have that regions can “buy” into, that can assist local units of government in budgeting and strategic financial planning. The RPC has sent this information out to our local units of government in the Region and to date have not had a response from anyone desiring to use this tool. For the Region it is a costly investment of around $3,500 and requires a staff person to go out and meet with the units of government to provide the service. This would require an aggregated demand from the Region in order to make it cost effective and to date we have not seen or heard from the LUG’s that it is needed.

Work continues on the re-write of the Regional Planning Act, there is not universal agreement on the legislation or the process but a Michigan Association of Regions and Michigan Association of Planning Law Committee subgroup is meeting monthly to draft legislation, there are several components of the legislation that are both confusing and controversial, the effort has come a long way in the past several months and as a State Association we hope to meet with the Governor’s office to discuss potential implications from this new legislation and how we can work together moving forward. Director Hagan will keep the Board informed and distribute the final draft, once one has been released for general consumption.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Numerous upcoming events were placed in your packets.
A couple to add –

EUP RP&DC Commission Meeting 4 4/27/11
Census Workshops are scheduled for Newberry at LMAS District Health on May 5th from 1:30-4:30pm and May 6th from 9:30-12:30-at the Bayliss Library in SSM.

Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday June 8th, Newberry (location?) – 10 a.m. Chair Hermanson recommended the Knollwood Restaurant in Newberry as the location.

**NEW BUSINESS**
D. McLean talked about meeting with forest service (resource advisory council-RAC). This group has Title 2 funding for projects – Commissioners Moore and McLean brought up project for 4 wheelers. Local committee was established, Michelle Walk is on this committee. Four-wheeler trail to tie into Green Bay/Keewenaw trail. McLean contacted UPCAP to make others aware of this initiative. Discussion about timber sales and Hiawatha’s involvement.

N. Fazer updated the board on the various GIS projects underway in the Region, and the Bing imagery projects, the last update we had was that the imagery flights would be made in late April to very early May.

**OLD BUSINESS**
After a discussion regarding regional GIS, D. McLean moved to authorize the RPC staff to research the shared services initiative, look into developing a proposal to present to each County, supported by D. Timmer seconds. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**
None received.

**ADJOURNMENT**
Motion by Becks, supported by Maki. Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.